

A.S. Hook Address – Brit Andresen

1. Research Background

This research is a contribution to scholarly and professional debate in the field of Architecture. The context of the research can be seen relative to the theoretical armatures that underpin the design and making of buildings in a contemporary setting. The broad research question concerns the role and use of abstraction as technique of architectural design.

2. Research Contribution

The contribution of this textual work lies in its interrogation of the use of abstraction in the process of architectural design beyond its endemic and ubiquitous use in contemporary practice. Rather than questioning the technique's obvious utility, this work proposes a closer look at its potential reference points arguing for a more sophisticated framing of its use in practice.

3. Research Significance

The work was made for the Australian Institute of Architects 'A.S. Hook Address', presented by the author as winner of the Institute's Gold Medal. The Gold Medal is the architectural profession's highest accolade and has been awarded annually since 1960. The Medal recognizes distinguished service by Australian architects who have designed or executed buildings of high merit or produced work of great distinction resulting in the advancement of architecture. The author's approach to abstraction as technique proposes a new engagement of technique relative to design and building which eschews its use outside a particular cultural 'situatedness'.